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Eire Taxation Relief

Dublin, Feb. 24.—The new Eireann Government has taken its first step to redeem a promise of reduced taxation made during the general election.

A statement issued tonight announced that duties on tobacco, beer and entertainment imposed in October are to be removed. No mention is made of increased duties on wines, spirits, furs and cosmetics, the road-tax on motor cars, and stamp duties on estates.

The present Government is a coalition formed by John Costello after the defeat of Mr. Eamon de Valera.—Reuter.

PALESTINE COMMISSION

PI Delegate Resigns

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—Senator Vicente Francisco, Philippine delegate, said today he has resigned from the United Nations Palestine Commission.

Francisco's resignation followed the disclosure last week of growing friction within the five-member commission which has the task of partitioning the Holy Land.

He said he would continue to serve on the commission until his government names a successor. His resignation was sent to Manila four days ago, Francisco said, but had not yet been accepted when he confirmed it here.

SLOW PROGRESS
Francisco said he resigned because the progress of the Commission has been much slower than he had expected when he accepted the post. Because of pressing private business in Manila, he said, it is impossible for him to remain away from home any longer.

Francisco is known to have differed sharply with several other members of the Commission on some issues. He denied he resigned because of the internal friction in the Commission's secret meetings.

"My association with all members of the Commission have been harmonious," he said. "They are all sincere and competent men."

Francisco is majority floor leader in the Philippine Senate and one of the leading criminal lawyers in the Philippines. He said he has had several legal cases postponed until March and April and that it is necessary for him to get home to handle them.—Associated Press.

Steamer Missing

Stockholm, Feb. 24.—The 550-ton Swedish steamer, Ivan, bound for the Baltic port of Stockholm from Nalmo, Southern Sweden, was last night missing on her 200-mile voyage.

Stockholm is in the area of Germany which was handed over to Poland under the Potsdam Agreement.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Education In Hongkong

UPWARDS of 200,000 children are now being educated in Hongkong, which figure tells the story better than any words of the remarkable effort made by the Education Department, and Chinese private schools, in bringing the Colony's educational facilities to a level hardly surpassed in the pre-war years. And this, despite the fact that neither King's College nor Queen's College any longer exist, and in the face of formidable obstacles such as difficulty of providing accommodation, staff shortages and lack of equipment. Today the education of something like 6,000 children is directly under the supervision of Government and another thirteen or fourteen thousand are being taught in Grant-in-Aid schools, and yet a further 20,000 or more are students of schools subsidised by the authorities. These are striking figures, indicative not only of the manner in which education has found its feet since the Liberation, but of the important position which education now occupies in the affairs of the Colony. The only question in doubt is whether Government appreciates this importance. Reference to the 1947-48 estimates reveals that only about five per cent of the total expenditure has been allocated for education, including personal emoluments. This can hardly be described as excessive generosity. Education in Hongkong should be regarded as one of the principal services to the community. If for no other reason than that the money ex-

UNITED STATES DECLARES ITS POLICY ON PALESTINE

Urges Security Council To Begin Consultations

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—The long-awaited United States policy on Palestine was laid down here today with a declaration that the Security Council should at once begin consultations with the Palestine Commission, with Britain, and with representatives of the Jews and Arabs, at New York, in an effort to reach agreement on the General Assembly's plan for partition.

Mr Warren Austin, the United States delegate, making this recommendation, also said that the Security Council must first of all determine whether there is a threat to international peace in the Palestine situation.

He proposed that the Security Council establish a committee made up of five of its permanent members to look into the question of a possible threat to international peace. He urged also that the Council call upon all governments and peoples to assist in the prevention and reduction of disorders in Palestine.

Mr Austin declared: "The United States, as a member of the United Nations, will continue to deal with the question of Palestine in conjunction with other members."

"The United States policy will not be unilateral. It will conform to, and be in support of, the United Nations action on Palestine."

"It is of first importance to the future of the United Nations that the precedent to be established by action taken in this case be, in full accord with the terms of the Charter under which we operate."

"In considering whether or not the situation in Palestine is a threat to international peace, the Council should consult with the United Kingdom, which, as the mandatory power, is responsible for the protection of Palestine."

Under the Charter, he said, the Council was responsible for determining the existence of any threat to peace.

COUNCIL MUST ACT

"If it makes such a determination with respect to the situation in Palestine, the Council is required by the Charter to act."

Mortar Shells Fired Into Police Compound

Jerusalem, Feb. 24.—Jewish mortars threw three-inch shells into the Palestine police compound just before noon on Tuesday.

One of the shells hit a post office nearby and another blasted the roof of a small building in the police billets area.

There were no casualties. The mortar blasts set off the alarm sirens for the second time. The first alert followed the roadmining of a Jewish bus being used to haul bread to the beleaguered Mekor settlements in the Jerusalem outskirts.

Rifle and automatic fire have been heard throughout Jerusalem most of the morning. A series of bursts punctuated the "All clear" siren after the mortar attack.

Police officials said the three-inch mortar shells came from the Jewish area of Jerusalem which was shattered by a bomb at dawn on Sunday.

Rescue workers are still digging into the debris of the Atlantic Hotel and engineers are planning to haul down some of the walls made treacherous by the force of the blast. A Jewish Agency spokesman told a news conference:

"There is no doubt in our minds that the Ben Yehuda bombing was perpetrated by British personnel. It is in the essence of such attacks to make it impossible to determine the identity of the attackers but we are continuing our investigation in the belief that they were British."

SEEK COMPENSATION

It was disclosed that Ben Yehuda Street merchants damaged by the attack have formed a committee to approach the government for repayment of losses since we feel the government should bear the full financial responsibility.

A government spokesman said one mortar bomb landed just outside the maternity ward of the government hospital but did little damage. The hospital is a few yards from police headquarters.

One Arab was killed and two injured in a siren gun attack on the Jewish bus as it sped past the Jewish Montefiore quarter of Jerusalem. Police said five Arabs, including one child, were killed and nine injured when their convoy was fired on by a passing Jewish convoy near Gaza. Four deaths were reported previously.

This makes the death toll since partition 1,370.—Associated Press.

"The Council, by these same powers, can take action to prevent a threat to international peace and security from inside."

"But this action must be directed solely to the maintenance of international peace. The Council's action, in other words, is directed to keeping peace, not to enforcing partition."

LACK OF RESTRAINT

The United Kingdom Colonial Secretary, Mr Arthur Creech Jones, told the Security Council that the military withdrawal and winding up of the civil administration in Palestine are both "being carried out against a background of increasing violence."

"Indeed, the general security position in Palestine has degenerated very seriously since the resolution of the General Assembly was passed on November 30 last year," he said.

"This deterioration, due to a lack of restraint by both communities inside Palestine, has been aggravated by the activities of groups beyond the borders—the intrusion of armed Arab bands, and on the Jewish side by the continuance of illegal immigration."

"In endeavouring to control this situation, British civil and military personnel have suffered a heavy toll of life and property."

"Nevertheless, the British forces have, on frequent occasions, kept the contending factions apart, have suppressed much violence, have controlled the frontiers, and have prevented open civil war."

"Since the resolution of November 30, my Government have provided the Palestine Commission with a large body of information to enable it to take up the responsibilities assigned to it by the United Nations."

POSITION EXPLAINED

"It is essentially because of the difficulties of security, and the dangers of divided responsibility in Palestine under present conditions, that the mandatory power, faced with specific threats by the Arabs, could not agree to open a port to Jewish immigration, could not agree to the progressive transfer of areas to the Commission's administration, or to the formation of a militia under the control of the provisional government of the future Jewish State."

"Nor could my Government safely extend the period of overlap, during which the United Nations Commission would be present in Palestine, while the responsibility for security and administration still rested with the mandatory power."

"Notwithstanding all those obstacles, the mandatory administration has made some progress in the devolution of powers to local Jewish and Arab authorities, in the creation of police forces drawn from both communities, and in the transfer of control over vital services."

Mr. Karel Lisicky, of Czechoslovakia, Chairman of the Palestine Commission, presenting the Committee's report on its examination of the problems, declared: "The only way of implementing the plan of partition as it has been envisaged by the Assembly consists in providing for assistance by non-Palestinian military forces, available, not in a symbolic form, but in effective adequate strength."

PREDOMINANT FACTOR

Calling for a realistic approach to the problem, Mr. Lisicky took the example of Jerusalem, where the security service was assured by 900 British and 350 Palestinian police, supported by more than a brigade of British military troops.

Even so, he said, there were daily shootings and bombings. The security aspect of the problem commanded all the rest. "Even with the support of strong military forces, we witness daily cases of shooting, bombing and indiscriminate killing."—Reuter.

Third Degree Accusations

London, Feb. 24.—An accusation that British and Allied officers used third degree methods against Germans at the Bad Neudorf interrogation camp in Germany was made in the House of Commons today by a Labour Member, Mr Richard Stokes.

He said he himself had visited the camp, where he found men in cells 10 degrees below zero.

"To my certain knowledge, one man had his legs frozen off," Four British Allied officers concerned with the allegations of ill-treatment are awaiting court martial.

Another Labour Member, Mr Thomas Driberg, asked what disciplinary action had been taken against a British officer and non-commissioned officers who had "beat up" Herr Werner Kleindienst, a 20-year-old German student.

Mr Emanuel Shinwell, the War Minister, replied that the officers' conduct was "improper and unworthy of the British Army."

They had been reprimanded and transferred to other duties or in one case released from the Army.—Reuter.

DRAIN ON \$ RESERVES CONTINUES

Bad News For Britons

London, Feb. 24.—The Government disclosed tonight that its efforts to reduce the drain on Britain's gold and dollar reserves failed during January.

The Government spokesman, Lord Pakenham, told the House of Lords that the drain on the reserves rose from £48 million in December to £57,500,000 in January.

He added, however, that this was not a "characteristic figure". But, writes Sydney Gumpel, Reuter's Financial Editor, this result is worse than was expected. It had not been supposed that the net January drain would exceed about £50,000,000.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, tonight underlined the importance of stopping this drain. He said that during the period of Marshall aid, Britain would need the backing of a gold and dollar reserve for the trade of the sterling area to maintain the confidence of the rest of the sterling area and the world which was essential to any world stability in trade.

"There is a really hard struggle before us," Sir Stafford said. It was a struggle of tremendous world importance.

ANTI-INFLATION MOVES

In one of several moves today in the home front battle to stop inflation, the national organisation of the Wholesale Distributors agreed to co-operate in the voluntary reduction of profits and prices. It formed four sub-committees to draft details of a scheme for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Chancellor later told a deputation representing staffs employed in Government offices that the proposals from Civil Service trade unions for the gradual introduction of equal pay for women could not be applied at present.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr Harold Wilson, today signed 14 new orders bringing more than 100 articles of everyday use from umbrellas to radios under a more rigid price control.

(Continued on Page 4)

U.S. Calls For Elections In South Korea

Lake Success, Feb. 24.—The United States today called for an immediate election in South Korea to establish a National Government despite the United Nations Korea Commission report that it did not support such a step.

The American delegate, Mr Philip Jessup, told the Little Assembly: "We believe that this will provide the Korean people with their best chance to establish a stable government, reflecting the will of the majority."

"The United States has not wished, and does not wish, to perpetuate the arbitrary division of Korea along the 38th Parallel. It urges that a National Assembly, representing all Korea, be elected on a basis of population."

Mr Jessup urged that one-third of the seats should be reserved for the representatives of North Korea, the Soviet-occupied zone.

"If it should unhappily prove to be the case that the Commission could not continue with observations of the elections north of the 38th Parallel, due to the opposition of the Soviet authorities, the result would nevertheless be that two-thirds of the Korean people would have elected their proportional share of the members of a Korean National Assembly."

"One-third of the Korean people would have been denied the opportunity to send their representatives to that Assembly."

"The Korean people and all the world would know who had denied them that opportunity."

Mr Jessup submitted a resolution to the Assembly declaring that it was incumbent on the Commission to implement an election programme in such parts of Korea as are accessible to the Commission.

CHINESE SUPPORT

Dr T. F. Tsiang, the Chinese delegate, said: "Members of the Commission feel that they should do nothing to crystallise the division between the North and the South. We should be very careful in our exercise of any course of action which we may adopt with particular reference to this point of Korean unity."

"I cannot conceive of any better way for the United Nations to make a contribution to the independence and unity of Korea than the course of action which the General Assembly resolutions set forth. "Last there be any misunderstanding on this matter, I wish to make it perfectly clear that my delegation and Government do not wish to see such a National Government adopt an anti-Soviet policy. "On the contrary, we would like to see Korea do all it could to cultivate the best friendly relations with Russia."

"Today's American request for immediate elections in South Korea—which American forces have occupied since the end of the war with Japan—came after reports from the Russian-occupied northern half that a Northern Korean 'People's Army' had been created and a 'Democratic People's Republic' declared."

This announcement was believed in Washington to have been made to embarrass the Chairman of the United Nations Commission, who is due to report to the Little Assembly this week on the Russian refusal to allow the Commission into Northern Korea to prepare for national elections. The American State Department, however, refrained from commenting on the clarification of the situation.—Reuter.

Manchuria Is Virtually Lost To Reds

Nanking, Feb. 25.—All reports available here indicate that the Government position in Manchuria is becoming sharply untenable as Communists close the ranks for a full-dress drive on Mukden from all sides.

While battle is underway in what is believed to be the final phase of the Manchurian warfare, Government control of territory in the North-east has been reduced to a precarious foothold in 13 counties and cities, independent despatches said.

The main threat to Mukden is now gathering from the south-east, where the Communists have already succeeded in isolating the coal-mining centre of Penki, 40 miles from Mukden, while severe fighting is also in progress along the Huang and Liao rivers.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Ministry of National Defence denied as "entirely untrue" the American news agency report that Chinese Air Force Headquarters have stopped flights to Mukden.

FLIGHTS CONTINUE

He said: "Not only military transports, but also civilian planes are maintaining regular flights between Mukden and other cities. The Chinese Air Force Headquarters never issued any order to suspend flights."

General Chang Tso-hsiang, one of the veteran Manchurian leaders, on arrival here yesterday said that the Manchurian situation though critical was not hopeless and the only remedy lay in successful military operations.

Mr Mo Teh-hui, State Councillor, predicted large-scale military operations in Manchuria with the advent of spring. He urged the Government to make every effort to gain control of the railway lines and areas, and not be content to hold a few points.

Semi-official reports from Hopei state that the Communists may shortly make another attempt to break into the provincial capital of Peiping, which they unsuccessfully tried to capture on numerous occasions in the past. Fairly heavy Communist troop movements towards the city are said to have been noticed.—Reuter-AAP.

Vote Of Confidence

Paris, Feb. 24.—The French National Assembly gave the Prime Minister, M. Robert Schuman, his sixth vote of confidence today by 301 votes against 275—a majority of 29. The vote was on the Cabinet's decision to refuse a bill calling for the repayment of the withdrawn 5,000-franc notes.—Reuter.

Canadians Still Want Full Report On Hongkong's Fall To Be Published

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—Mr Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, agreed in the House of Commons here today to ask the British Government to reconsider its objection to publication of some parts of the report of the 1942 Royal Commission which investigated the fall of Hongkong in 1941.

Two Canadian regiments were captured there. For some days, the progressive Conservative Opposition have pressed for the documents to be made public and Mr Mackenzie King had cabled to the British Government for permission.

The authorities in London stated that inter-governmental correspondence should in future remain confidential.

Mr King told the House that it was now hoped that the British

Government would agree to the publication of all documents so that the Canadian people could get a full picture of the action.

The demand for a new appeal to Britain came from Mr C. G. Power, Air Minister during the war, whose son was captured at Hongkong, after Mr King had stated he was prepared to make public evidence which had been given before a Canadian Commission.

The British authorities, he said, had not been able to agree to the publication of telegrams which related to the international situation in the Far East "as they belong to a class of communication framed on the basis that they would not be published."

"They said the system of frank and full communications between Governments of the Commonwealth would be prejudiced if telegrams

had to be prepared on the basis that they might be published," Mr King said.

Leaders of the three Opposition parties agreed with Mr King, but Mr Power, who sits on the Government side of the House, though no longer in the Cabinet, asked for the British decision to be reconsidered.

As one who played a large part in the assembling and despatching of the Canadian force at Hongkong, he said, he wanted the Canadian people to get a complete picture. "And as one associated with the 'Canadianising' of the Canadian forces, he wanted all information to be made public on what could happen when Canadian troops were asked to serve under officers who were not Canadian and not responsible to the Canadian people."

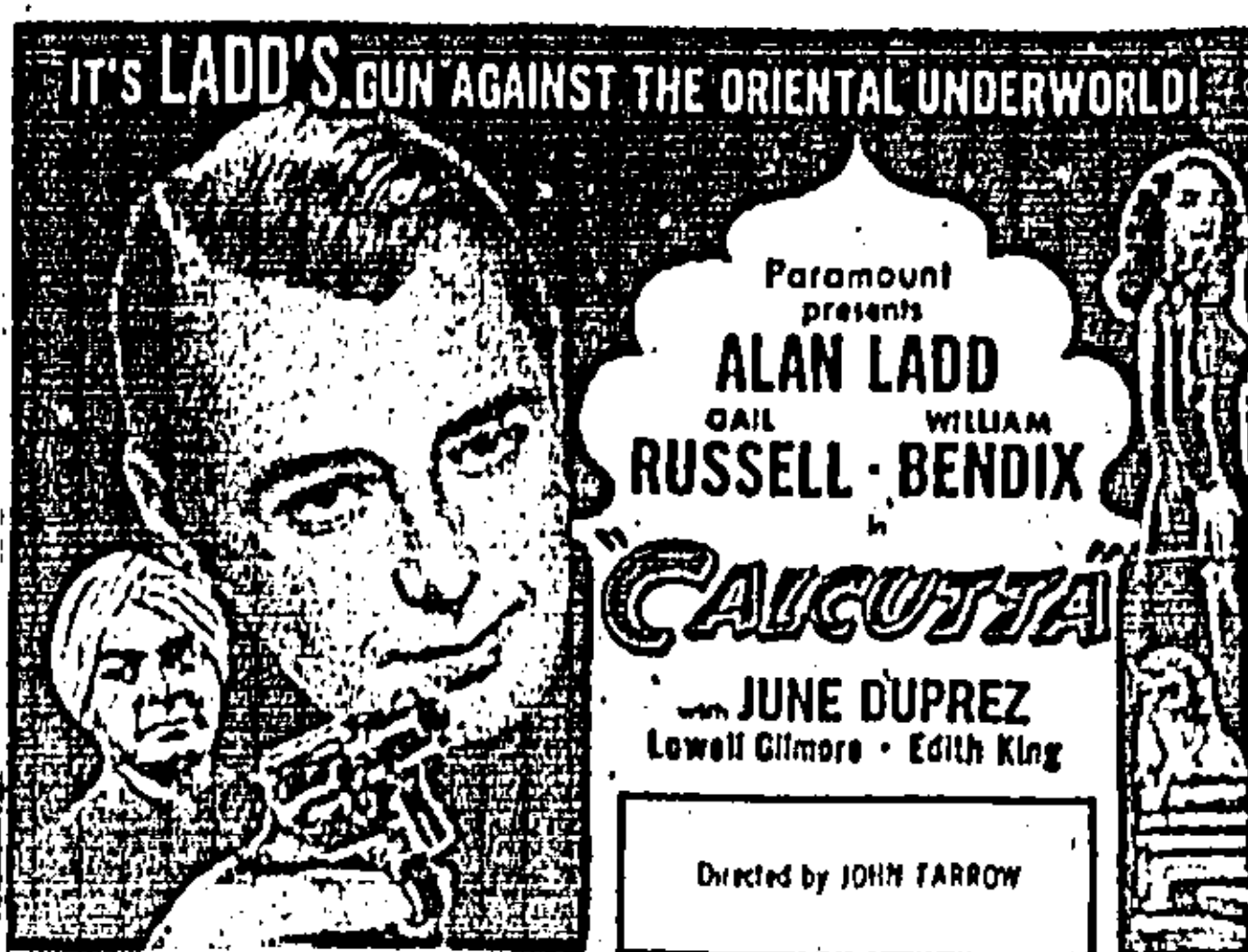
"I feel such information would give guidance as to what policy should be in the event of another war," he said.—Reuter.

SHOWING TO-DAY **KING'S** At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

"MOTHER and SON"

A Chinese Picture with Mandarin Dialogue.

NEXT CHANGE



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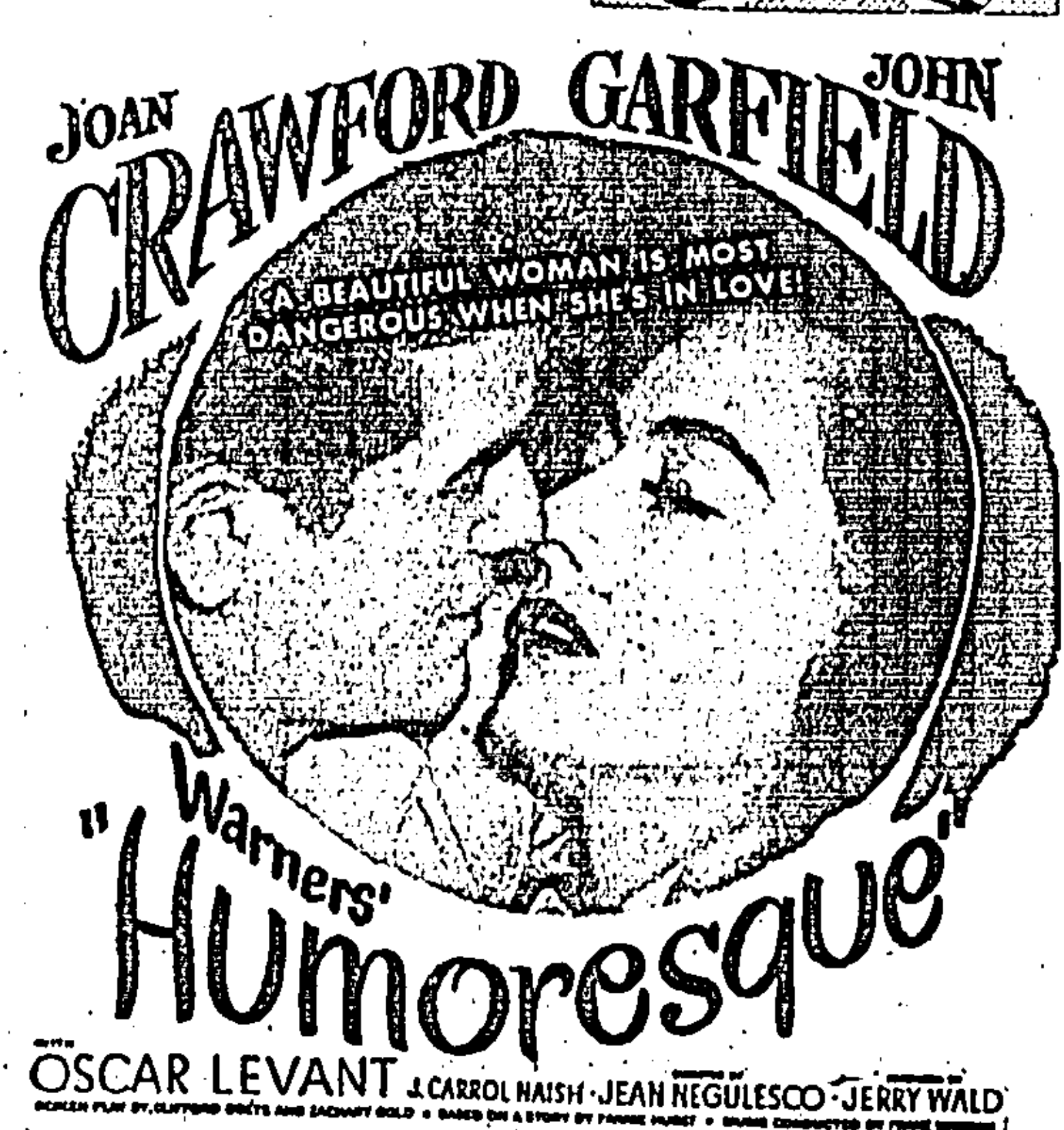
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THE STRANGE STORY OF A DANGEROUS WOMAN'S DESPERATE LOVE!

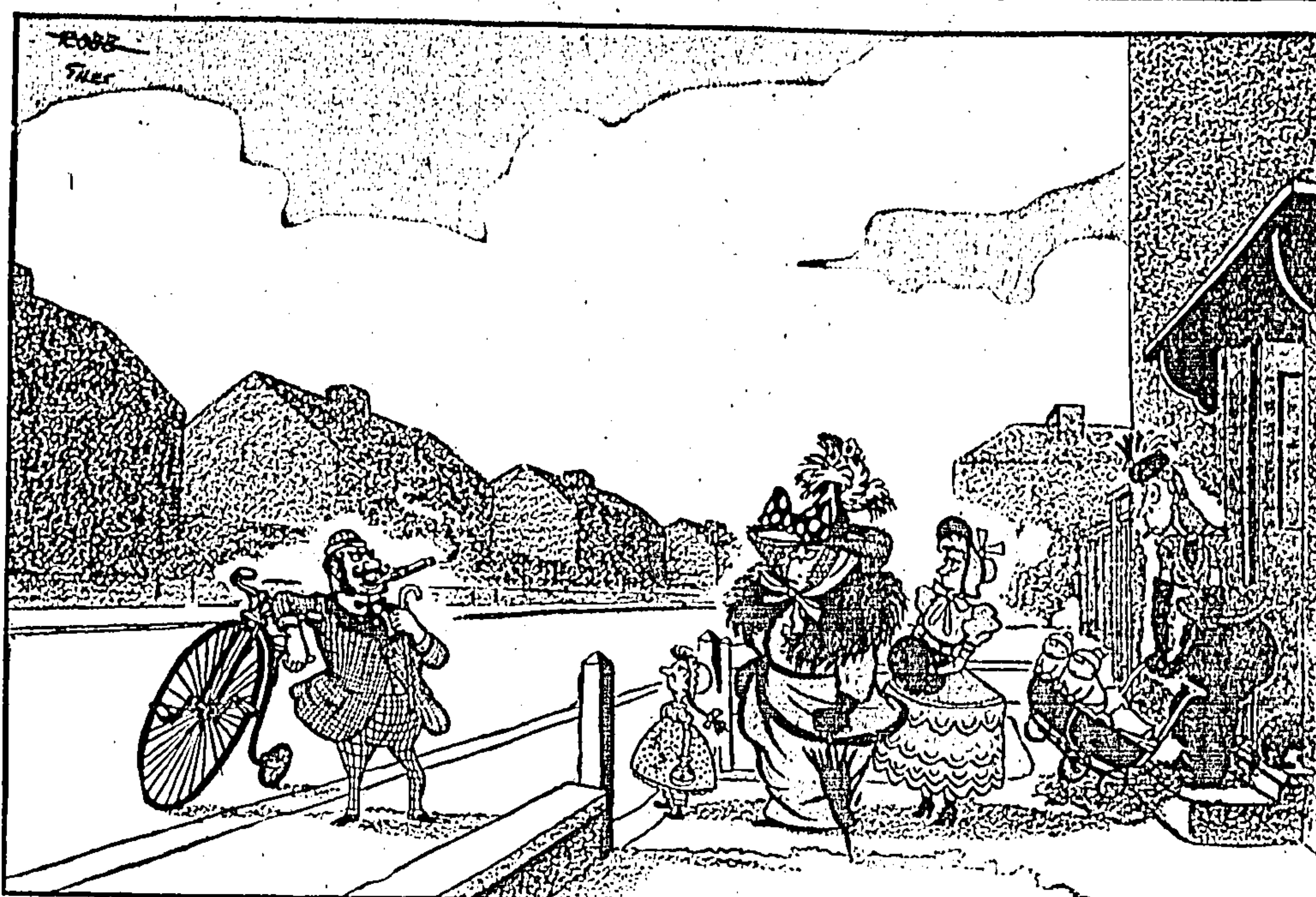
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AN RKO-RADIO PICTURE

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in "EASY TO WED"



"O.K. How d'you like MY New Look?"

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

REPORT from the Cornell University:

"Cannibalism has been the adjuster of the food supply to the population, and of the population to the food supply. Furthermore, it tends to upgrade the diet. Historically, it cannot be overlooked, but currently it cannot be discussed in polite society. It is a case where a social gain has been achieved at the expense of a nutritional loss."

★ ★ ★

Times: Summer 1955. Every food shop in Britain is empty.

Characters: Charles, Celia and Uncle Edward.

Place: Celia's drawing room. Window overlooking garden, back centre. Charles and Celia are seated on divan with their backs to window.

CHARLES: You look lovely tonight. Positively delicious.

CELIA: Don't say things like that, Charles. Not these days. It sounds quite frightening.

CHARLES: I didn't mean anything horrible, really. I must be hungry.

CELIA: But you must be hungry, poor darling.

CHARLES: I'm starving.

CELIA (sighing): I simply don't know what we're going to do. There's nothing to eat at all, anywhere.

CHARLES: Except people.

CELIA: Oh, Charles. I could never do that. Never. I'd rather starve to death, wouldn't you?

CHARLES (looking thoughtfully at her): I don't know.

CELIA (shrinking away): Charles, you wouldn't... you weren't thinking?

CHARLES: No, of course not, darling. We love each other, don't we? (still looking thoughtfully at her) You're losing a lot of weight.

CELIA: Well, you always liked skinny women, didn't you?

CHARLES: I used to.

CELIA: Charles, I wish you wouldn't look at me like that. It reminds me of something I'd almost forgotten, the way farmers looked at cattle.

CHARLES: We're all beginning to look at each other like that.

CELIA: But not me, Charles, please.

CHARLES: No, not you, darling. There are plenty of other people.

CELIA (quietly): Charles, let's starve rather than that.

CHARLES: But I don't like starving. Celia, the Government's sanctioned it to preserve the race, or part of it. Only a few squeamish people like us are standing out. And if we go on standing out, you know what will happen to us—before we get too thin.

(Celia rises and walks about the room in an agitated manner. Charles watches her.)

CHARLES: After all, it's not much worse than eating pigs. I once met a pig with big brown eyes and long lashes.

CELIA stops, suddenly in her walk.

CELIA: That wasn't funny. It was in filthy bad taste.

CHARLES: Oh, I'm sorry, Celia. I wasn't thinking of your big brown

eyes and long lashes, really. I wasn't. This pig's eyes were reddish brown, not velvety brown like yours.

(Celia continues her agitated walk.)

CHARLES: As this is a question of survival, I think we ought to take a more rational view of the whole business. I remember years ago an American chap said, "Cannibalism has been the adjuster of the food supply to the population, and of the population to the food supply." Well, he was right. No-

body goes hungry now, except us.

CELIA: I'd rather go hungry.

CHARLES: This American chap also said, "Cannibalism tends to upgrade the diet." Well, look at your Uncle Edward since—

CELIA: Stop it, Charles.

CHARLES: I won't stop it. Let's face the facts. Your Uncle Edward is looking fatter than he's ever looked before. And what's more, there's much more room in that overcrowded house of his now than there was before.

CELIA: I'm not sure. I think there are fewer people in it.

CELIA: Stopping and staring out of the window. Maybe you're right.

CHARLES: I'm sure I'm right, and I'm glad to see you're taking a more sensible view.

CELIA: What else did this American say?

CHARLES: Well, referring to the fact that it was not then practised and could not be discussed in polite society, he said: "It is a case where a social gain has been achieved at a nutritional loss."

CELIA (still staring through the window): What did he mean by that?

CHARLES: He meant that, because it couldn't be discussed, people had to sort of do without each other—and well—felt a bit peckish, I suppose. But in some cases, of course, it's been both a nutritional gain and a social gain.

You can hardly say that Uncle Edward's sister was much of a social asset.

CELIA: No, hardly.

CHARLES: And you can't say that awful woman who gave bridge teas and talked entirely in platitudes was a loss.

CELIA: No, I can't. But wasn't something wrong with her inside?

CHARLES: Nothing at all, although she was always yapping about it. They got a clean bill from the doctor before they, well, before—

you know, they always do.

CELIA: I suppose it's just as well.

CHARLES: It's amazing how healthy these bodes are. Everybody says they make the best—well, you know what I mean. They used to condemn 'unhealthy' cows, didn't they?

CELIA: Really, Charles.

CHARLES: Oh, don't be silly, Celia. It's absolutely palatable.

CELIA: Do you mind if I open the window?

CHARLES: Not a bit. It's getting rather hot.

(Celia opens the window and makes a sign to Uncle Edward, who approaches through the garden carrying a sack.)

CELIA: Yes, Charles.

CHARLES: You know I love you, don't you?

CELIA: Of course, Charles.

CHARLES: And you love me?

CELIA: You know I do.

CHARLES: You once said you would do anything for me—literally anything. Did you mean it?

CELIA: I did.

(Uncle Edward is now at the window and climbing stealthily through.)

CHARLES: Come over and sit beside me, Celia.

(Celia walks over and sits beside him.)

CHARLES (taking her hand): Celia.

CELIA: Yes?

CHARLES: I'm terribly hungry, Celia.

CELIA: Poor darling.

CHARLES: You look so delicious. Did I tell you that before?

CELIA (smiling): Even before the food shops were empty.

(He puts his arms round her as Uncle Edward creeps up on them with the sack.)

CHARLES: Poor Celia. Getting thinner every day.

CELIA: Poor Charles, getting hungrier every day.

CHARLES: Do you know what I'm thinking?

CELIA: I expect so.

CHARLES: What are you thinking?

CELIA: The same.

CHARLES: And you don't mind?

CELIA: Not now.

CHARLES: I couldn't bear anybody else.

CELIA: Nor could I.

(Uncle Edward makes a sudden spring at Charles, puts the sack over his head, and holds him still.)

UNCLE EDWARD (to Celia): Dinner tonight at 7.30.

CELIA: I can hardly wait.

(All performing rights reserved.)

★ ★ ★

Party conversation

"MARGARET's father says the day we can distil whisky from coal will be the turning point in our fortunes."

"Who's going to be in the bomb disposal squad in the new A.R.P.?"

"If only my husband would say no as often as Molotov says, no, he'd

be in better health and we'd have more money in the bank."

"In a few years money in the bank won't mean a thing. The only commodities of value will be a house to live in, clothes to wear, enough to eat and good health."

"Margaret's father says if they could distil whisky from coal he would go down the mines himself."

"If and when we're not short of anything, what will happen to the black marketeers?"

"They'll reappear as wealthy retired citizens in Surrey mansions."

"Brother's husband's dreading her Christmas dinner so much that he's feeling sick in advance."

"What is this drink? Ether and vinegar?"

"Margaret's father's working on another idea to make gin out of grass."

"I'm going to be one of the 12,000,000 to disappear. I'm going off with a bang."

"We ought to start stage coaches again, except that there is nothing worth eating at the bus."

"There's nothing worth eating on the trains."

"Passengers would probably end up by eating the horses and pulling the coach themselves."

"Margaret's father's spare time is spent adding up the millions of tons of unmined coal, the millions of acres of uncultivated grass, and turning them into billions of bottles of whisky and gin."

JAP ROMANTIC SUICIDES

By Earnest Hoberecht

ROMANTIC Japanese couples are finding that the course of democratic love does not always run smoothly. Many are turning to the traditional "double suicide" as the only solution to their troubles.

Police estimated that nearly 10 percent of the 103 suicides in Tokyo in 30 days were "love suicides."

Japan's teen-agers thought the Golden Era had arrived when the new "democratised" civil law went into effect in January. The new law says boys 18 and girls 16 may get married without their parents' consent "if mutually in love."

It was a revolutionary change, since it opens the way for love marriages in place of family arranged unions.

The cold fact of the situation is that young hearts still are not absolutely free.

TRADITIONS SURVIVE

Many prospective brides and grooms find they cannot beat Japan's feudalistic traditions which grew up around the centuries-old "family system."

Technically, the new civil law abolishes the family system.

Yet lovers find that the law exists more in theory than practice. For hundreds of years, papa or some older relative has been running the show, and the jitterbugging new generation is finding that the "head of the family" has little inclination to release the reins.

Strong-headed youngsters who marry without permission sometimes find that their parents threaten to disown them. The children still do not know that the new civil law prevents the father from cutting them off without a yen. So young men and women dreaming of a "new style" love marriage are reluctant to face economic insecurity and the loss of family ties.

Caught between the old and the new, couples are seeking a solution through "shinju"—the double suicide of love.

Sometimes a boy and a girl go to a small inn and die in each other's arms after taking poison. Other times they leap off cliffs into the sea or into a volcano.

The crater of Mount Mihar, on Oshima Island, is a favourite place for such suicides.

The Buddhist belief that in the next life they will be united. The practice is praised rather than condemned in Japanese sentimental literature.

LAWS CHANGED

Under the new law, a wife has greater protection than ever before, once she is married. No longer can her husband just kick her out against her will. There must be court proceedings before the romantically inclined male can take on a new bride.

The old days are gone. No longer can a husband walk down to the

(Continued on Page 3)

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

WHEN I read of a clock which will keep running for a thousand years, without being rewound, I smile.

The private public is not going to stand the sort of old-fashioned nonsense. The question every decent person will ask is, "Does it go faster than sound?" The Gallop public is sick of clocks which amble along, taking 60 minutes to cover an hour. "It is high time," said Councilor Mrs. Pargoe, "that clock went as fast as planes." Sunk in Victorian sloth, my own clock takes a whole day and night to do 24 hours. Is that the way to planned prosperity and happiness? Is that what you call democracy?

Somewhat, I think that nobody will ever write such lines about this kind of clock as were written of a sandal: Here in a lonely glade, forgotten, I mark the tremendous process of the sky. So does your inmost soul, forgotten, mark The Dawn, the Noon, the Coming of the Dark.

Further difficulties

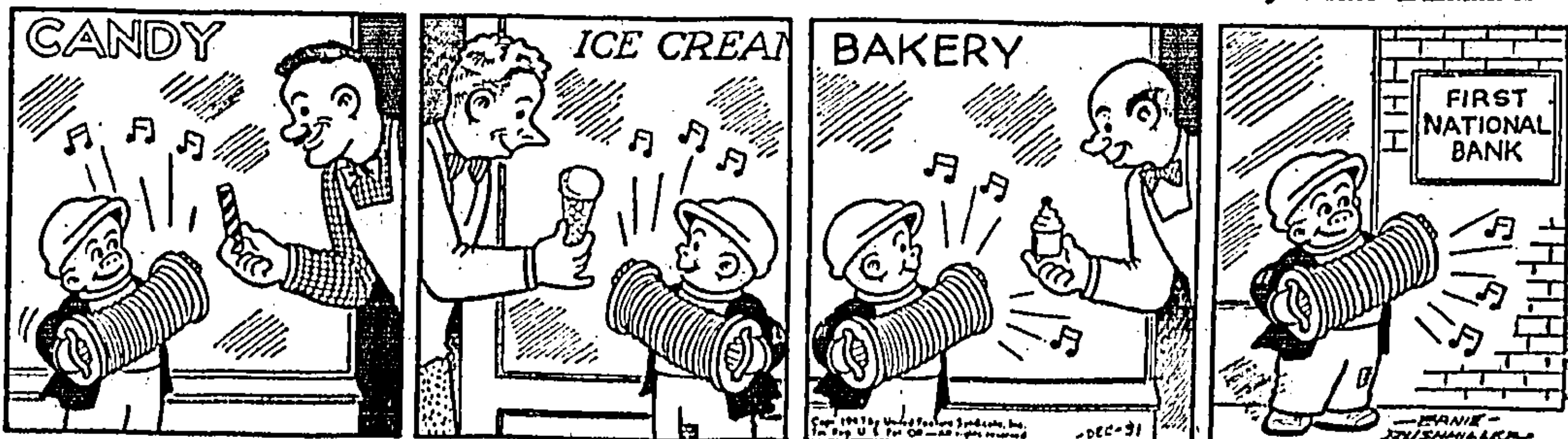
THE three Persians, despairing of ever getting a new plank set to work and mended their old one. An Inspector called while it was being mended, and accused them of being about to erect a cowshed. They pointed out that they had no cow, whereat the official said that it

made it worse to erect a cowshed which was not going to be occupied by a cow. They said they had no thought of erecting a cowshed; the wood was for a cesspool. They were then given three forms to fill dealing with the Use of Wood for Insanitary Activities. They filled them in all wrong and received a call from a Freightage Rate Adjuster, who said they were constructing a horrible maisonette. He also condescended their little pot of glue, saying that glue without a licence was illegal. A telephone call from Whitehall ordered them to sow clover. They said they had nowhere to sow it. It was then found that the call was intended for a farmer in Leicestershire.

Old days in Ahaland

THE witch-doctor has no trouble in getting his patients to take concoctions of herbs. Their normal food is so revolting that they regard any novelty as a treat. If the medicine kills the patient, the disease is pronounced to have been incurable. If he recovers it is due to the medicine. As his youngest wife is killed out of gratitude for his recovery, if the witch-doctor is at all fond of her he usually lets the patient die. And if the wife likes her husband she poisons the witch-doctor. The real difficulty for everyone is to find the difference between poison and ordinary food. The usual method is to invite the chief of a neighbouring village and let him try the dish first.

NANCY Sluggo Turns Pro



Don't wait till you see this!

START USING

Fitch's

DANDRUFF REMOVER

SHAMPOO

&

QUINOL



SOLE AGENTS: NAN KANG CO., UNION BLDG. H.

Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Louise Albritton for Lois Leeds.

Business Girls, take note of Lois Leeds' suggestion!

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—What exercise can I do to get taller? I am 5 feet, 2 inches and I hate it! I weigh 104 pounds.—LUCIE."

Height cannot be gained by exercises. Every now and then we hear of someone who gains height by exercise but I have never seen these results. Make up your mind to be your type, to dress for it and cultivate your "five feet, two" personality. It is useless to waste time in wishing!

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am 59 years old, have my own income at home. Every time I buy a dress in anything but black my married sons and daughters hold a meeting, saying that I am frivolous and an 'old fool.' What do you think?—MAL."

I think you have a mean and ungrateful set of sons and daughters. Just refuse to listen to them! Buy any colour that you like and cultivate friends of your own age. Just don't even visit your ungrateful brood. Have a good time!

"Dear Lois Leeds—Is cold water as effective for refining tissues as is a skin lotion?—K. T. M."

No. An astringent has certain blended ingredients which are very effective for stimulating circulation and "refining" the pores.

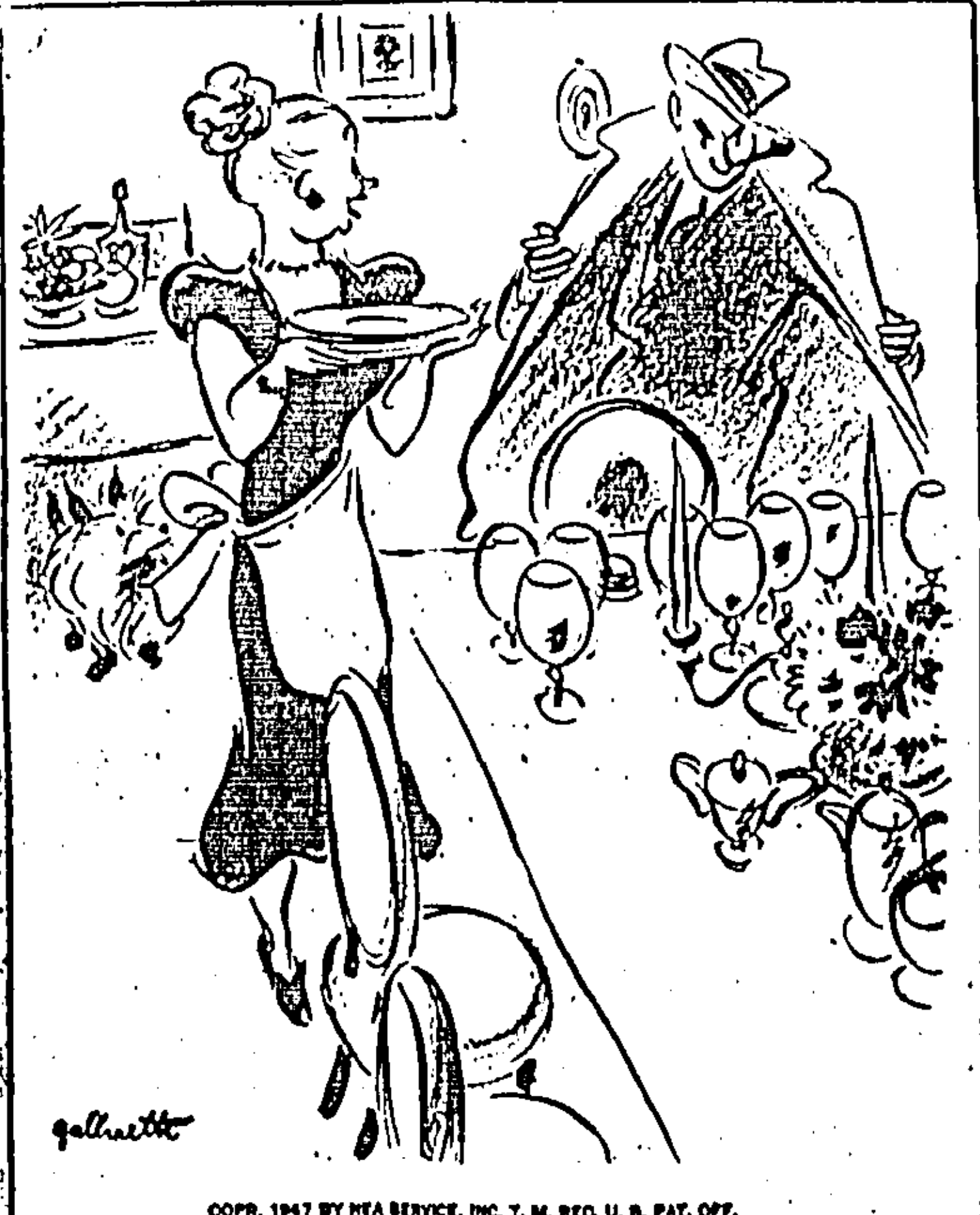
Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



It's a Night and Day makeup that you need when you makeup by day, light and dine under the stars! Carry a bit of rouge and powder and a Night-Red lipstick to touch up your daytime makeup.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"The Perkinses called off their party because the children have chicken pox, so I'm having all the guests over here.—I don't want that whole afternoon I spent in the beauty shop wasted!"

400,000,000 Tons of Debris Estimated As Air Toll In Germany

Some 400,000,000 tons of debris is the toll of the air war on German towns and cities in the four occupation zones of Germany. That is the total estimated by German experts, although even now exact statistics are not available for all the places that were attacked.

PARIS FILM VOGUE

Perhaps it is because life is so difficult today, a Frenchman remarked recently, that France is enjoying a vogue of films laid around the turn of the century.

A skillfully assembled collection of ancient news photos, assembled by a woman, Nicole Vedrez, and titled "Paris 1900," will be shown to the public shortly. It covers the period 1900-1914.

Shots taken nearly half a century ago show a conversation in the Luxembourg Gardens between Paul Valery and Andre Gide, the painter Renoir, and the police capture of a "desperate" anarchist, Maurice Chevalier, Mistinguette, Sam Bernhardt and Lucien Guitry, father of Sacha, also figure in the film. Claude Dauphin is the commentator.

Mme. Vedrez has written books on the cinema, but this is not her first film.

Even older films will be assembled by Georges Sadoul, leading movie historian, who will collect a number of little movies made around 1895. They were taken by French camera men sent all over the world by Louis Lumiere, one of the early French film inventors. The film will be appropriately entitled "Fin-de-siecle."

\$5,900 FOR R.A.F. CHARITIES

Over £5,900 has been received for Royal Air Force charities as a result of a number of RAF stations being at home to members of the public during Battle of Britain Week last year.

This amount has been divided equally between the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Forces Association, whose appreciation and thanks have been conveyed to all concerned.

JAP ROMANTIC SUICIDES

(Continued from Page 2)

local ward office and have his wife's name struck from the family records.

A few years ago, a Tokyo wife returned unexpectedly to the city and found her husband with another woman. Apparently the husband thought he could find happiness with his new love only in the next life. The husband and the "other woman" took poison in a double love suicide.

An American GI and his Japanese sweetheart took poison and died together in a small Shinto shrine.

In another case, a Japanese girl poisoned herself and her American boy friend who was scheduled to return to the United States. The only way she could hold him was to take him into the next life with her.—United Press.

Check Your Knowledge

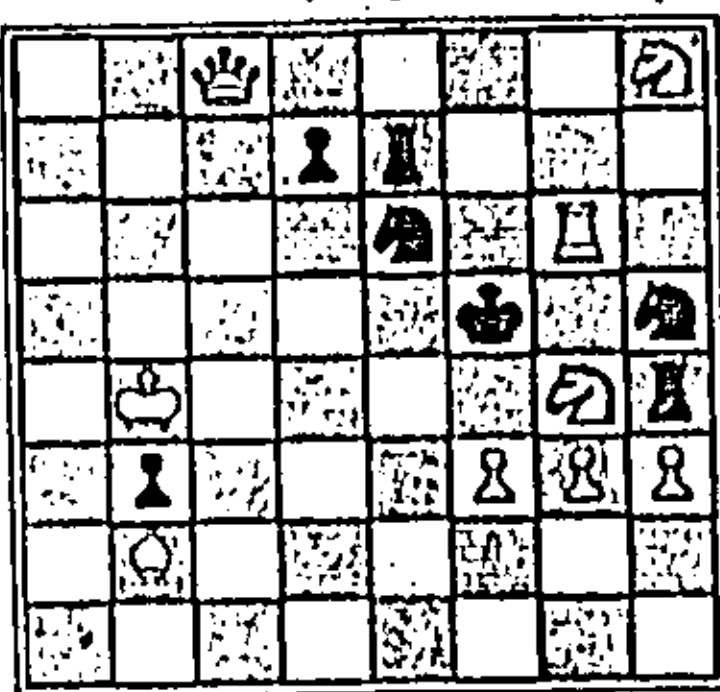
1. What country produces the most gold in the western hemisphere?
2. In what country were Hispano-Suiza automobiles manufactured?
3. Name the largest desert in the world.
4. Name the only king in Europe who retained his throne throughout World War II.
5. When were submarines introduced into the United States Navy?
6. Name the least densely populated country in the world.

(Answers on Page 4)

CHESS PROBLEM

By A. L. ROTINJAN.

Black, 7 pieces.



White, 9 pieces.
White to play and mate in two.
Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. R-K16, 1... K-K2
2. R-K6, 1... P-KP:2, R-K16
—O—

In the American Zone, after the collapse of Germany in 1945, roughly 40 percent of dwelling houses and apartments were found destroyed.

In the British Zone, 1,600,000 dwellings were destroyed and 1,400,000 dwellings damaged but in a state capable of repair.

The Russian Zone before the war contained about 4,000,000 dwellings of which a relatively small proportion, namely 433,000, were destroyed or greatly damaged. The smaller proportion of damaged dwellings is due to the fact that the air war was mainly confined to the manufacturing cities of southern and western Germany and Berlin.

Roughly half the destroyed housing in the Russian Zone can be repaired.

In the French Zone, the six large towns were almost totally destroyed. Before the war, they contained 167,000 dwellings of which by the end of the war no fewer than 70,000 or 42.5 percent were heavily damaged and unusable.

Official Statistics

Official statistics give the following picture of destruction in five leading cities:

Berlin: 4,230,000 inhabitants in 1939; 70,000,000 cubic metres of debris, or 16 cubic metres per person.

Frankfurt: 550,000 inhabitants in 1939; 12,000,000 cubic metres of debris, or 21.6 cubic metres per person.

Stuttgart: 458,000 inhabitants in 1939; 5,000,000 cubic metres of debris, or 21.6 cubic metres per person.

Cologne: 772,000 inhabitants in 1939; 13,000,000 cubic metres of debris, or 16.8 cubic metres per person.

Dresden: 630,000 inhabitants in 1939; 25,000,000 cubic metres of debris, or 16.8 cubic metres per person.

Problem At Worst

Hamburg has only 52 percent of its pre-war habitable dwellings, but its population has only declined from 1,712,000 to 1,400,000, causing an acute housing shortage.

Towns where the housing problem is worst include Bochum, Wuppertal, and Munster, where only about one third of the dwellings remained.

Despite the widespread destruction, the urban population has been increasing steadily since the end of hostilities. Frankfurt, for example, has increased its population by nearly 40 percent, from 311,000 in July, 1945, to 433,800 in June, 1947.

NEW RECORDS

GOOD singing is to be found in the folk songs, "Foggy Dew," "The Plough Boy," and "Come ye not from Newcastle," sung by Peter Pears with Benjamin Britten at the piano (HMV, DA 1873). Woody Herman accompanied by the Four Chaps vies with Frank Sinatra in his versions of "That's my desire," and "There is no greater love." (Columbia DB 2350). And you will enjoy Dorothy Squires singing "I'm in the Mood for Love" and "I'm Gonna Hold You in My Arms," with an orchestra directed in grand style by Billy Reid. (Parlophone F 2257). ROBERT TREDINICK

Rupert's Silver Trumpet—10

When his lute is finished Rupert scale it carefully and runs to the pillar-box to post it just as Algy and Willie come hurrying up. "I've asked for a real big drum!" shouts Willie. "I hope it won't be so large that I can't see over the top of it." "Ah! I've asked for a good loud trumpet," laughs Algy. "We must be careful where we do our practising," says Rupert. Just then Dinkie the Cat strolls up again and stands staring intently into the hedge.

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DUMB BELLS



McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Grand Slam Cold! But It's Down 2

AK	QJ	1098	765432
AQ107	53	875432	None
W	N	E	S
Dealer	None	432	87432
Mrs. Schellenberg	None	AKQJ10974	AKQ
Rubber—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♦4			3

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

THIS is not the first time I have said that sometimes a player's complaint of hard luck on a hand when near bidding or misplay on their part was the real cause of the trouble. But that was certainly not true with today's hand, which was played at the Mayfair Bridge Club by Harry J. Fishbein and Mrs. Ralph H. Schellenberg. Fishbein is one of the country's strongest players, but Mrs. Schellenberg seldom plays bridge except to fill in occasionally.

She picked up today's hand while glancing around the room to see if the games were started and if anyone wanted her place. Somebody said, "It's your bid." When she took a look at her hand (South), she almost dropped the cards.

Her great maestro had taught her that on a hand in which there was a two-bid, which she did, and she proceeded to bid the hand very well.

West considered doubling seven hearts but decided against it. When he led the four of diamonds, Mrs. Schellenberg turned to him and said, "If you had doubled, I would have redoubled."

She called a small diamond from dummy, and when East trumped, Mrs. Schellenberg gasped, "Do you mean to say you have no diamonds?"

"No diamonds," said East.

A club was returned, declarer played the queen, and West trumped.

Now Mrs. Schellenberg had good reason to complain of hard luck. Down two on a hand that actually had 18 cold tricks, and against an opponent who refused to lead an ace against a seven bid!

You will notice that if West had led the ace of spades, declarer would have made seven-odd... so I think you will agree that this is perhaps the greatest "hard luck" hand of 1947.

LEE & ALHAMBRA

— FINAL SHOWINGS —
FOUR SHOWS TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 P.M.

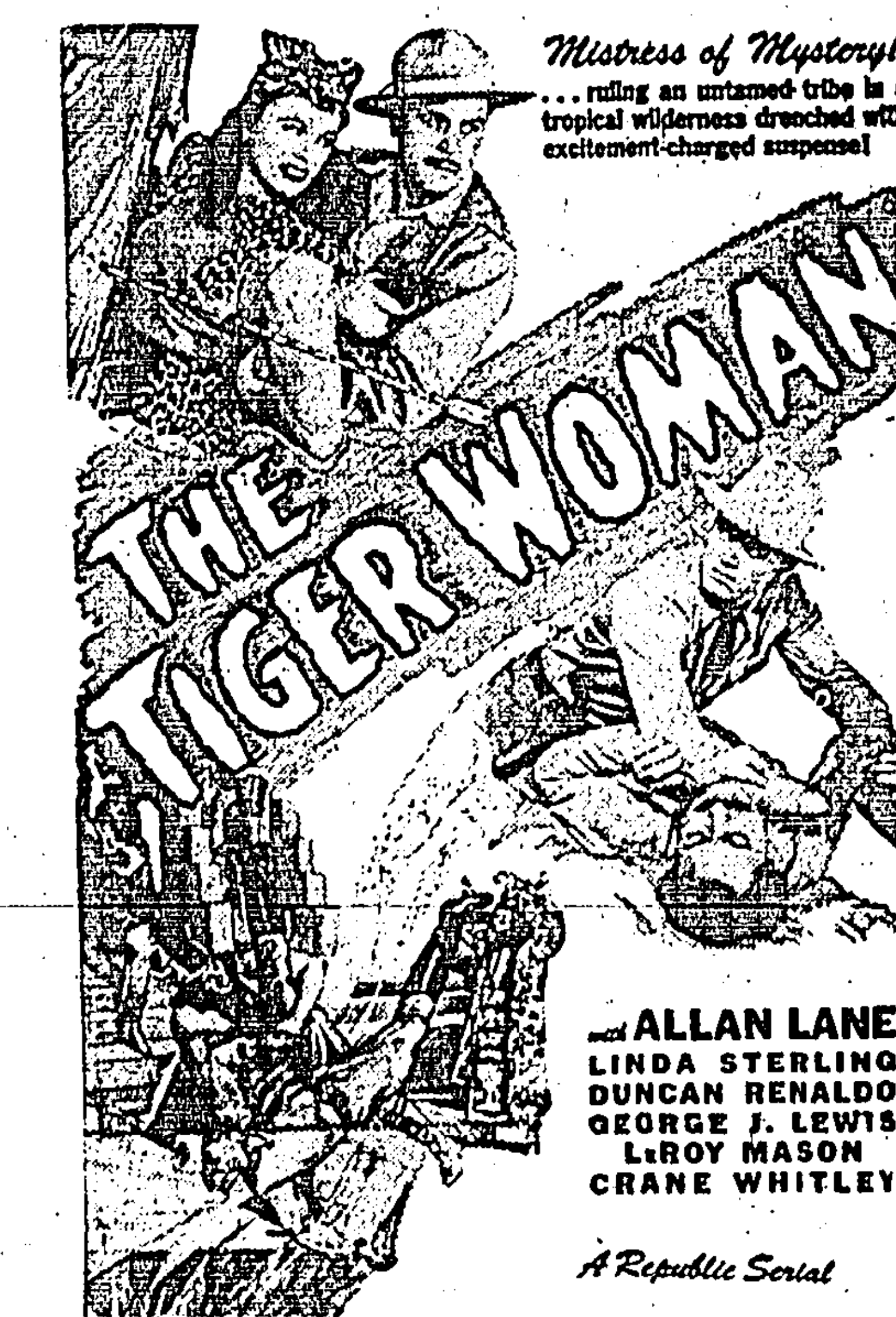


TO-MORROW
LEE "HUMORESQUE"
ALHAMBRA "SEND FOR PAUL TEMPLE"

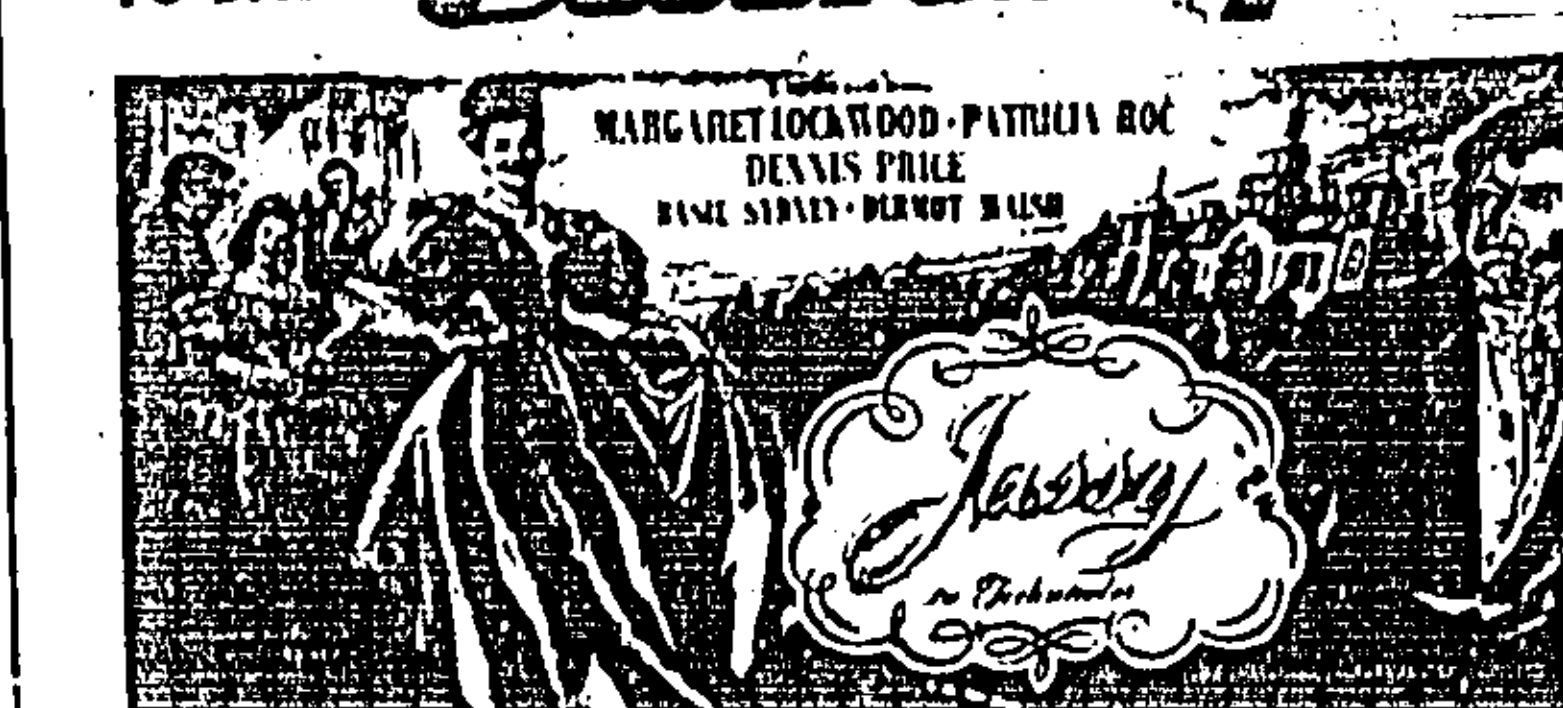
CENTRAL THEATRES

* 5 SHOWS DAILY *
AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

* FIRST EPISODE *



SHOWING TO-DAY **Cathay** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



* NEXT CHANGE * MICHAEL REDGRAVE in "THE MAN WITHIN" with Joan KENT in TECHNICOLOR

LAUGH GAVE HIM APPENDIX

A Norwegian proverb says that a hearty laugh brings health. In the case of the station master at Ulsberg, central Norway, a too hearty laugh brought acute appendicitis.

Some motorists spotted a young reindeer near the railway station and pushed the amiable animal into the back of their car. They took the little deer to the railway station, placed him in front of the booking office, knocked on the glass and hid themselves quickly.

The station master was so amused when he gazed into the reindeer's liquid eyes that he burst out laughing, and could not stop until he felt a terrible pain in the stomach.

The merry-making motorists drove the station master to the hospital, where he was operated on, immediately.—Associated Press.

Hymn Displeased Blotto Profundo

A self-appointed music critic heard the choir of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, in Long Beach, California, disapproved of it and expressed his opinion with pistol shots.

The choir was practising when a quavering tenor joined them in a hymn. Investigation disclosed the uninvited chorister was a "blotto profundo," leaning from an open church window.

The choir resumed its singing when the inebriate shouted: "No, no, that ain't the way it goes." So a chorister shut the window.

The drunk fired a shot through the window. Nobody was hurt, and the intruder disappeared before the police arrived.—Associated Press.

Marshall Aid Leads To War

—HENRY WALLACE

Washington, Feb. 24.—Mr Henry Wallace, third party Presidential candidate, told correspondents here today that he believed the Marshall aid plan would "complete the split of Europe" and eventually lead to war.

He was answering questions after attacking the plan in evidence before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today.

Mr. Wallace said: "I do feel that the European recovery programme would lead to war."

Asked why he opposed the union of Western Europe, Mr. Wallace said: "I am human, and I suppose I am against it because Mr Churchill is for it. I admit there are certain geographical factors to recognise, but I am against it because I have no objections to it if it has the proper safeguards."

He added that to obtain Russian co-operation, America must have "a new approach, including new faces in the executive branch of the Government."

Asked what a new President should do, Mr. Wallace replied: "There should be a meeting between the President and Generalissimo Stalin, with diplomatic and economic experts to cover their differences in detail."—Reuter.

Nordic Countries In

Oso, Feb. 24.—Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland have decided to take part in the Marshall aid plan and in the proposed economic co-operation between the 16 countries which attended the Paris Economic Conference, the Nordic Ministers announced tonight at the end of their meeting here.

Three four Scandinavian governments agreed that a successful Marshall plan "will be of decisive importance for European reconstruction."

Their representatives—the Foreign and Trade Ministers of each country, the Danish Minister of Economics, and the Norwegian Minister of Industry—agreed that they "shared the same view on the problems the Marshall plan seeks to solve."—Reuter.

Germany In Union

The Hague, Feb. 24.—Germany could not be excluded from a Western Union, Baron Van Donselaere, the Dutch Foreign Minister, said in Parliament today.

There was no doubt, he said, that Britain wanted to include a recovered Germany in the United Nations. Dutch wishes on Germany would have to be considered, he declared, and Holland had neglected no opportunity of pointing this out.

He warned against too much propaganda for federalism in Europe, saying that the question needed serious study.

Wherever possible, Holland would consider the realisation of federalism within the Charter of the United Nations.—Reuter.

Three-Power Talks

London, Feb. 24.—The talks between Britain, the United States and France on the future of Western Germany continued in London today without any decision being reached, a French Embassy spokesman stated tonight.

He refused to disclose further information. No communiqué on the meeting was published.—Reuter.

VICTORIA CLUB CALLOVERS

London, Feb. 24.—The first official callovers on the "Spring Double"—the Lincolnshire Handicap and the Grand National—took place at the Victoria Club here today.

The prices quoted were as follows: The Lincolnshire: 18 to 1 Clarion taken and offered; 22 to 1 Kinsale offered; 25 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Crested offered; 28 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Flexton; 28 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Provident; 28 to 1 taken; 25 to 1 Flipper taken and offered; 33 to 1 Commensal offered; 33 to 1 taken; 33 to 1 Paton Saint taken and offered; 33 to 1 Lucky Jordan offered; 40 to 1 Petchouly; 40 to 1 Aigle Royal and Bees Gorse; 40 to 1 taken and offered; 40 to 1 Quenneville offered; 40 to 1 Lord Nelson; 40 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Lord Saladin; 40 to 1 taken and offered; 50 to 1 Donbur offered.

The Grand National: 100 to 1 Ven Rolmond taken and offered; 100 to 1 G. Rowland Roy and Silver Frame, both taken and offered; 20 to 1 Revelry taken and offered; 22 to 1 Klaxton taken and offered; 23 to 1 Weevil taken and offered; 33 to 1 Cloncarrie and Loughoon, both offered; 33 to 1 War Risk offered, 40 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Prince Regent, taken and offered; 40 to 1 First of the Dandies offered; 50 to 1 taken; 40 to 1 Coughoo and Halcyn Hours, both offered; 50 to 1 Lovely Cottage; Happy Home; House Warner and Jock, all offered.—Reuter.

NOTICE

TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

WAR CRIMES TRIALS CRITICISED

Westover, Massachusetts, Feb. 24.—Judge Charles Wennerstrum, the United States war crimes judge who presided at the last Nuremberg court which sentenced Field Marshal Von List and other German Italian commanders, declared here today that he was standing by his criticisms of the Allied trials.

He said the prosecution "failed to attain an objectively aloof from vindictiveness and from personal ambitions for convictions."

Earlier, Justice James T. Brand, of the Oregon Supreme Court, his predecessor as presiding judge at Nuremberg, had declared that Judge Wennerstrum's criticisms were "a great disservice to the Government."—Reuter.

ANTARCTIC DISPUTE RUMOURS

London, Feb. 24.—Informed naval circles said today that the British cruiser Nigeria might not arrive before the week-end off disputed Deception Island.

These circles added that the Nigeria may be expected tomorrow in Port Stanley. There she will stay for at least 24 hours for refuelling. The commander of the ship (Capt D. L. Moore) is expected to use the pause for a prolonged conference with the Governor of the Falklands, Mr. Miles Clifford.

After refuelling, the Nigeria will continue her trip together with the sloop Shippe, which has a much slower speed and which will considerably slow down the trip to Antarctica.

It is generally assumed in London that the Argentine Navy may have left Deception Island waters before the Nigeria's arrival. Political circles point out, however, that the presence of Argentine ships in Antarctic waters is quite immaterial to the cruiser's mission, which is to give the Falklands Governor any assistance he needs.

Rumours In Circulation

The delay in the British answer to Chile and Argentina has given rise to various rumours as to the alleged contents of the notes now in preparation. Thus, it is asserted that Britain would suggest a big international conference on the Antarctic, not as an alternative but as an addition to the British proposal to submit the matter to the International Court at The Hague.

The rumours suggest that Britain might be able to bring three British Dominions into the conference if it is called, especially Australia, which is interested.

Other conference participants might be Norway, France and the United States, besides the interested Latin American countries.

There is no official confirmation that such a conference is planned.—United Press.

CRASH OVER DAVAO

ENGINE TROUBLE RESPONSIBLE

Manila, Feb. 24.—Engine trouble is believed by the management to have been the cause of the Commercial Airlines plane crash on Sunday morning over Mati Airfield, in Davao, which claimed the lives of 13 persons, including six children and the pilot, Captain A. Buenaventura, a veteran Philippine Army Air Force officer.

The children, sons of wealthy Davao families, had gone aloft for a brief spin in the sky, for fun. The ill-fated flight was part of an aviation educational programme in Davao.

The airfield itself was inaugurated only last Thursday.

An official report on the cause of the accident is expected to be made public in the near future.

This was the Commercial Airlines' first accident in three years, and it was emphasised that the flight was not a regular schedule hop.—Reuter.

Cocktail Party & Tennis Films

A large gathering of tennis players and followers of the game were entertained at the Macao Room, Hongkong Hotel last evening when Messrs M. McMaster and D. Blacklock, Directors of Slazengers, Ltd., were hosts.

Following cocktails, three interesting films were shown. The audience saw a colour film of the 1947 Davis Cup Challenge Round between Australia and the United States played at Melbourne, a black and white film of the Wimbledon meeting, and another depicting how the Slazengers' Australian factories converted themselves from peace-time to war-time production.

The hosts were introduced by Mr John Pearce, and Mr Blacklock limited in a brief speech that it was hoped to arrange for Australia's Davis Cup team this year to visit Hongkong as well as Malaya after they had completed in the tournament.

FRANCO REPORTED CONTEMPLATING CABINET SHAKE-UP

Madrid, Feb. 24.—Well-informed political sources said today that Generalissimo Franco is seriously contemplating a sweeping Cabinet shake-up shortly. These sources said that the changes would affect almost all portfolios, possibly with the only exception of the post of Foreign Affairs.

Keynote Of Britain's Economic Policies

London, Feb. 24.—The keynote of Britain's economic policies this year must be to make sterling strong and stable as a contribution to the British economy and to a great part of the rest of the world as well, Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said here tonight.

Addressing a National Savings rally, he emphasised that, during Marshall aid, Britain would need the backing of a reserve of gold or dollars for the trade of the sterling area because she must maintain the confidence of the rest of the sterling area and the world, essential to any world stability in trade.

"There is a really hard struggle before us, do not say a desperate struggle, because that would imply that there was no way out."

It was a struggle, he added, of tremendous world importance and "of the most adventurous possibilities."—Reuter.

New Price Controls

London, Feb. 24.—Mr Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, announced today that he had signed 14 orders designed to assure that there would be no provocative increase in prices or profits that would strengthen demands for increased wages.

The new orders follow the announcement by Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on February 12 that the Government would put a price ceiling on a large range of goods based on the December-January levels as one step in its "freeze wages, profits and prices" programme to check inflation.

Mr Wilson told a press conference that the new orders covered two main classes of goods.

They brought under up-to-date price control inessential goods formerly under only control and laid down the rule that manufacturers, under a "cost plus" system has previously been able to pass on the cost of wages increases to the consumer, could not add any extra resulting from wage agreements reached after February 4, 1948, unless the Board of Trade specifically agreed.

Umbrellas, typewriters, cameras, combs, radios, gramophones, television sets, tools, articles and stationery come under the new controls.

More than 100 items of everyday use and their accessories will be pegged under the 14 orders, which will come into effect on March 15.—Reuter.

THREATENING LETTERS

Batavia, Feb. 24.—A number of threatening letters, signed "You may die," have been received by delegates to the Bandung conference to consider a provisional constitution for the proposed new state of West Java, the Netherlands East Indies news agency reported today.

Hotels are being guarded and all precautions have been taken in Bandung, a hill city about 120 miles southeast of Batavia.

All members of the committee which prepared the agenda for the conference and some other delegates have received the letters, the news agency said.

The new state of West Java would comprise mainly the territory occupied by the Dutch in the police action last year.

The delegates are also discussing a proposal that the Bandung conference should become the state's first Parliament. When this was raised at today's meeting, there was a heated discussion, resulting in an adjournment for one hour.

The conference will meet again tomorrow.—Reuter.

France believes that his team should be replaced with new blood, and injected with fresh spirit harmonising somewhat more closely with the postwar political and economic patterns of Western Europe.

The sources said that the efforts of the new government will be directed at Spain's eventual inclusion in the European recovery programme.

It is learned that the Minister of the Interior, Blas Perez Gonzalez, recently had two long interviews with Franco, lasting five and a half hours, on this particular subject.

At last Friday's Cabinet meeting, changes were discussed, but due to Franco's attitude towards the general management of affairs, the sources said the Ministers obtained the impression that the Caudillo is contemplating new government designs.

It is recalled that changes were never discussed or announced at Cabinet meetings. The rule in the past has been that Ministers are told of their appointment or dismissal when it is published in the official gazette.

Possible Vice-President

The sources said that Franco is studying the advisability of himself remaining chief of the state, but would appoint a vice-president in the government who would preside at Cabinet meetings to report directly to Franco. Franco would preside over more important meetings.

The sources said it is most likely that the candidate for the vice-presidency today is Blas Perez Gonzalez, former professor of law at Madrid University and a 100 per cent Francoite. He has been collaborating with Franco since the start of the civil war in 1936 when he was the judicial assessor of Franco's headquarters at Salamanca.

The sources said that Franco might even decide to appoint a head of the government instead of a vice-president and he would remain chief of the state, thus taking the lead in the administration of routine matters. They stressed that this is how the situation appears at this moment, but that it was subject to change because the truth is that one boss, Francisco Franco, is running Spain.—United Press.

Drain On Dollar Reserves

(Continued from Page 1)

Only when costs of raw materials rise or wage increases accord with the Government's new policy will any change in these prices be approved.

In considering applications for increased wages, we shall take a very austere line on profits," Mr Wilson told a press conference.

Lord Pakenham, in his statement in the House of Lords, said the country was making a real response to the demands for greater production.

So long as there was a reasonable hope of Marshall aid, Britain had declined to take extreme measures of austerity.

"But we have made calculations regarding the steps which would have to be taken if the worst came to the worst."—Reuter.

U.S. POLICY ON PALESTINE

(Continued from Page 1)

mate killing, intensifying to such extent as to make possible the kind of outrage perpetrated two days ago in the very centres of modern Jerusalem.

"Nevertheless, according to an estimate of the mandatory power, a force of 1,000 non-Jewish non-Arab special police is considered as a minimum sufficient to cope with the preservation of law and order in the area of the city after the termination of the mandate."

M. Lisky said those who ignored advice not to embitter the already explosive situation were trifling with the peace of the world.

Should the security aspect prove insuperable, "what use would there be in considering other difficulties still in store?" he asked.—Reuter.

TRUMAN'S ENDORSEMENT

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Truman, in a statement made on board his yacht in the Caribbean, unqualifiedly endorsed Mr. Austin's statement on Palestine before the Security Council today, calling it an accurate representation of the United States Government's views.

"The Palestine problem has been and is the deep concern of this Government. It had been most

carefully considered by me, the Cabinet, and other responsible Government officials.

"The United States policy had been developed through long and exhaustive study and many consultations."

At Lake Success, Mr. Austin's speech was generally looked upon as one of the most ambiguous and puzzling statements yet made, leaving the Palestine problem up in the air.

Mr. Austin's statement, subsequently amplified by a United States spokesman, made these distinctions:

1.—The Security Council has the right to take measures to preserve peace.

2.—The Security Council has no constitutional right to impose any General Assembly recommendation by force.

TWO SOLUTIONS

The American policy on this tangled issue falls into two separate solutions:

Firstly, the Security Council could send an international force to Palestine on the assumption that the problem threatens international peace.

If this course were adopted, the legal alternative for the United Nations would be to impose a sort of moratorium on Palestine and put the country under a form of trusteeship for one or two years.

A temporary trusteeship until tempers cool has been talked of in Washington as one of the alternatives envisaged by the United States.

Secondly, the United Nations could send an international force to Palestine to keep the peace and then ask both Arabs and Jews to discuss what settlement they are prepared to accept.

Whichever of the alternatives may be adopted by the Council, one fact is clear to the majority here—the partition plan as formulated by the General Assembly last year may have to be revised.—Reuter.



Civil War Threat In Yemen Said Growing

Cairo, Feb. 24.—The threat of civil war in The Yemen, which adjoins Saudi Arabia and the British protectorate of Aden, appears to be growing, reports from Aden and Sanaa, the Yemenite capital, reaching here said today.

Reports have been current in the Middle East for some time that Imam Yahya Hamiduddin, the 85-year-old king of The Yemen, three of his sons and his Prime Minister had been assassinated. Official sources in Baghdad said last night that the Imam was strangled in bed last month by members of a liberation movement.

The latest report to reach Cairo said troops loyal to the new Imam, Abdullah El Wazir, have been sent to the mountain strongholds of southern Yemen, where Prince Seif El Islam Ahmed, eldest son of Imam Yahya and their Presumptive to the throne, is reported to have taken refuge.

Prince Ahmed is said to be organising armed resistance to the new regime.

Other reports said that El Wazir has rejected a proposal by Prince Ahmed to submit the dispute over the succession to the throne to the Arab League representatives now in Sanaa.

Headed by Abdul Rehman Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, a League delegation to inquire into the new regime and

to prevent a possible civil war will leave Cairo for The Yemen on Friday.

Leaflets Dropped
An Egyptian military plane which carried Arab League representatives from Cairo to Sanaa dropped pamphlets appealing to the population of The Yemen to maintain calm and order and to await developments.

El Wazir is reported to have told the League representatives that his government is fully determined to embark on wide social reforms and consolidation of relations with the Arab League member states, and to establish friendly relations with foreign countries on a footing of equality.

Commander Ismail Safwat Pasha, commander of the Arab League's armies for the liberation of Palestine, is reported to have arrived at Sanaa from Damascus.—Reuter.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If you close before 10 a.m. registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. the previous day.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Closing Times by Air
Canton, 11.30 a.m. (reg); 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Shanghai, 11.30 a.m. (reg); 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 1.30 p.m.
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tsingtao, Peking, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Keelung, 3.30 p.m.
Closing Times by Sea & Train
Canton (Train) 7 a.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.
Hankow, Manilla, South Africa via Durban and Mombassa (Sea) 10 a.m.
Manilla (Sea) 10 a.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m.
Straits and Hongkong (Sea) 3 p.m.
Formosa via Keelung (Sea) 4 p.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Closing Times by Air
Shanghai, 9 a.m. (reg); 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 1.30 p.m.
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tsingtao, Peking, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Keelung, 3.30 p.m.
Closing Times by Sea & Train
Canton (Train) 7 a.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.
Hankow, Manilla, South Africa via Durban and Mombassa (Sea) 10 a.m.
Manilla (Sea) 10 a.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m.
Straits and Hongkong (Sea) 3 p.m.
Formosa via Keelung (Sea) 4 p.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Closing Times by Air
Shanghai, 9 a.m. (reg); 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 1.30 p.m.
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tsingtao, Peking, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Keelung, 3.30 p.m.
Closing Times by Sea & Train
Canton (Train) 7 a.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.
Hankow, Manilla, South Africa via Durban and Mombassa (Sea) 10 a.m.
Manilla (Sea) 10 a.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m.
Straits and Hongkong (Sea) 3 p.m.
Formosa via Keelung (Sea) 4 p.m.
Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

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Removal Of Dock Leads To Protest

London, Feb. 24.—A strong protest against the removal by the Soviet authorities of the Danube Steamship Company's floating dock at Vienna at a time when the Company's assets were under discussion by the Foreign Ministers' Deputies, was made today by the British delegate to the Austrian Deputies' conference here.

Mr James Marjoribanks, the British delegate, who was in the chair, declared that the British Government "would strongly deprecate any attempt to prejudge the outcome of our discussions to the extent of actually removing such property from Austria, and thereby transferring it from one category to another, at the very time when the deputies are seeking to work out a settlement."

The British authorities in Vienna, he said, had been told that the Soviet Government had removed the dock, the only one of its kind in Austria, downriver to Hungary.

The American deputy, Mr Samuel Reber, supporting the British protest, declared that the incident raised the whole question of fixing a date after which no German assets claimed by the Soviet Government in Austria should be removed until a four-power agreement had been reached.

Relevance Denied

Denying the relevance of the protest, the Soviet deputy, M. Koltimov, said that in any case he considered it premature to conclude that the Soviet Government intended to transfer this asset from the category—inside Austria—in which 25 per cent of the company's assets were claimed, to the category—outside Austria—in which 100 per cent was claimed.

The deputies spent the rest of the meeting working in detail through the proposed Soviet claims on oil extraction, exploration rights and the period over which these were claimed, in an attempt to find out what assets would be affected.

The Soviet deputy defended the Soviet claim for a 50-year oil concession by stating that this was based on international precedent, and not on Austrian precedent.

Austrian Refineries

During a discussion on the Soviet claim to the Austrian refinery capacity of 450,000 tons of crude oil annually, the British, French and United States deputies pressed for an exact statement on what plant would be affected, on the ground that in several cases the interests of their own nationals were affected.

The Soviet deputy said the Soviet claim was based on the refining capacity now in Austria, and made allowance for looted plant already returned to France by Austria since 1945.

The deputies will meet again tomorrow morning.—Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers
1. Canada. 2. France. 3. The Sahara Desert. 4. King Gustav V of Sweden. 5. On April 18, 1890, with the purchase of the U.S.S. Holland, 6. Greenland, with only 0.6 persons per square mile.

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He stole—so Justice could be avenged...
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DAB and FLOUNDER —by Walter

